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ABSTRACT

In spring 1984, a study was conducted to analyze enrollments in California's community colleges and to assess the effects of the mandatory fee instituted in fall 1984 upon the mix of community college students. A stratified random sample of 10,247 students from 62 community colleges were surveyed. Study findings, based on a 69% response rate, included the following: (1) three of every five community college students were self-supporting; (2) community college students were less wealthy than the typical Californian; (3) four of every five community college students were working regardless of whether they were self-supporting or dependent, or attended school full- or part-time; (4) one-third of all students reported that they intended to transfer to a four-year institution, while almost one-half were enrolled for occupational skills; (5) the racial and ethnic backgrounds of the students were comparable to those of all Californians, except that Asians were overrepresented and Hispanics were underrepresented; (6) regarding dependent students: nine of every ten had never married and lived with their parents, and eight of every ten were working; and (7) regarding self-supporting students: three of every ten had never married, five of every ten were currently married, two of every ten were divorced, widowed, or separated; four of every ten owned their own homes, while six of every ten rented; and eight of every ten were working. Graphs and tables illustrating findings are included in the report. (LAL)

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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Student Profile

Presented to the

Board of Governors of the
California Community Colleges

Hyatt Regency Long Beach
Ballroom B and C
200 South Pine Avenue
Long Beach, California
October 25, 1984

Long Beach City College
College Center (Lower Level)
4901 East Carson Street
Long Beach, California
October 26, 1984

JC 840 549

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STUDENT PROFILE

This profile summarizes some of the major findings of a survey conducted for the Chancellor's Office by the Field Research Corporation during the Spring 1984.

The survey consisted of a stratified random sample of 10,247 students from 62 community colleges. Two questionnaire mailings, follow-up by college officials, and a final telephone follow-up by the Field Corporation produced 7,094 useable responses, a rate of 69 percent. This rate varied from a high of 75 percent among white students to 61 percent among Black students.

This survey was conducted to provide a reliable picture of Spring 1984 enrollment as a benchmark to assess the effects of the mandatory fee (instituted in the Fall 1984) upon the mix of community college enrollments: particularly their ethnicity, income, and academic load. Also of concern is the possible behavior of noncredit students, for which a report is required by March 1985.

Besides assessing the impact of fees, survey data also will enable staff to analyze financial aid and other important factors.

Summary

(1) Three of every five community college students are self-supporting and two are dependent.* (Chart 1)

- o 23 percent of all community college students are enrolled full-time (take 12 or more credit units); 65 percent are enrolled part-time for credit; and 12 percent are enrolled only in noncredit courses.
- o 60 percent of self-supporting students are enrolled part time.

(2) Community college students are less wealthy than the typical Californian. (Chart 2)

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*Students are classified as dependent if they met any one of the following three criteria:

1) were claimed as a dependent for tax purposes for either or both of the past two years
2) lived with their parents more than six weeks during the past year
3) received more than $800 in support from their parents during the past year

- o Those students who are dependent upon their parents say their parents' median income** is below the median for Californians of similar age.

- o Self-supporting students report a median income that is below the median for all Californians.

- o One of every ten self-supporting students is on public assistance.

  (This is comparable to the figure for all Californians.)

- o Eleven percent of community college students report receiving financial aid grants.

- o Sixteen percent of students report that they borrow money in order to support their education.

(3) Most community college students work regardless of their circumstances; i.e., regardless of whether they are dependent, self-supporting, full-time or part-time. (Chart 3)

- o Four of every five students work.

- o Half of those who work spend 40 hours per week on their job.

(4) Reporting on their educational objectives: (Chart 4)

- o One-third of all students report they intend to transfer to a four-year institution.

- o Nearly one-half are enrolled for occupational skills.

- o The remainder are enrolled for either basic skills or other purposes.

  (This pattern is different than that reported in earlier studies, where fewer students were enrolled for occupational skills and more students were enrolled for other purposes. This may reflect the impact of the mandated course reduction in 1982 and other recent budget cuts.)

**The median income is the "middle" income; half of the incomes reported are above this figure and half are below. The "mean average" income (total of all incomes divided by the number of families) is typically $4,000 to $5,000 higher since it is pulled up by some very high incomes.

Of every ten full-time students,
- six say they want to transfer
- three are training for an occupation
- one has other objectives

Of every ten part-time students,
- three say they want to transfer
- five are training for an occupation
- two are enrolled for basic skills or other purposes

(5) The racial and ethnic backgrounds of community college students are comparable to those of all Californians, except that Asians are overrepresented and Hispanics are underrepresented:

	Community College Students (Fall 1983)	All Californians (1980 Census)
American Indian	1.5%	0.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.2	4.8
Black	8.7	7.5
Hispanic	12.9	19.2
Non-Hispanic White	62.9	66.6
Other	2.8	1.0

- o Asian students least often attend on a part-time basis; but, along with Hispanics, most often attend noncredit courses. (Chart 5)

  (This pattern reflects the large number of English as a Second Language (ESL) courses taught in the noncredit mode.)

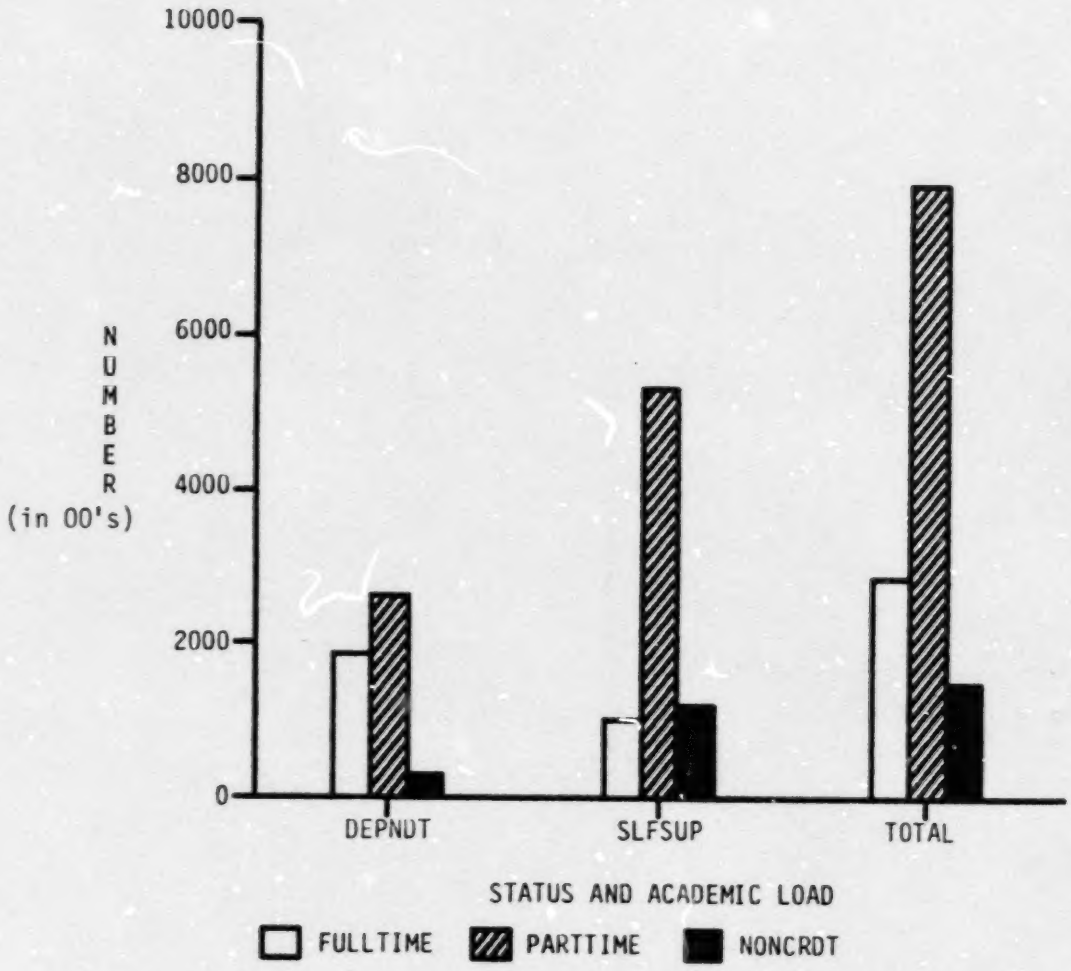
- o Asian and Black students report the lowest incomes while Non-Hispanic Whites report the highest incomes. (Chart 6)

(6) In terms of lifestyles, of every

ten dependent students:	ten self-supporting students:
o nine have never married one is currently married	o three have never married five are currently married two are divorced, widowed, or separated
o nine live with parents one rents	o none live with parents six rent four own their own homes
o eight work	o eight work

CHART 1

STUDENT NUMBERS



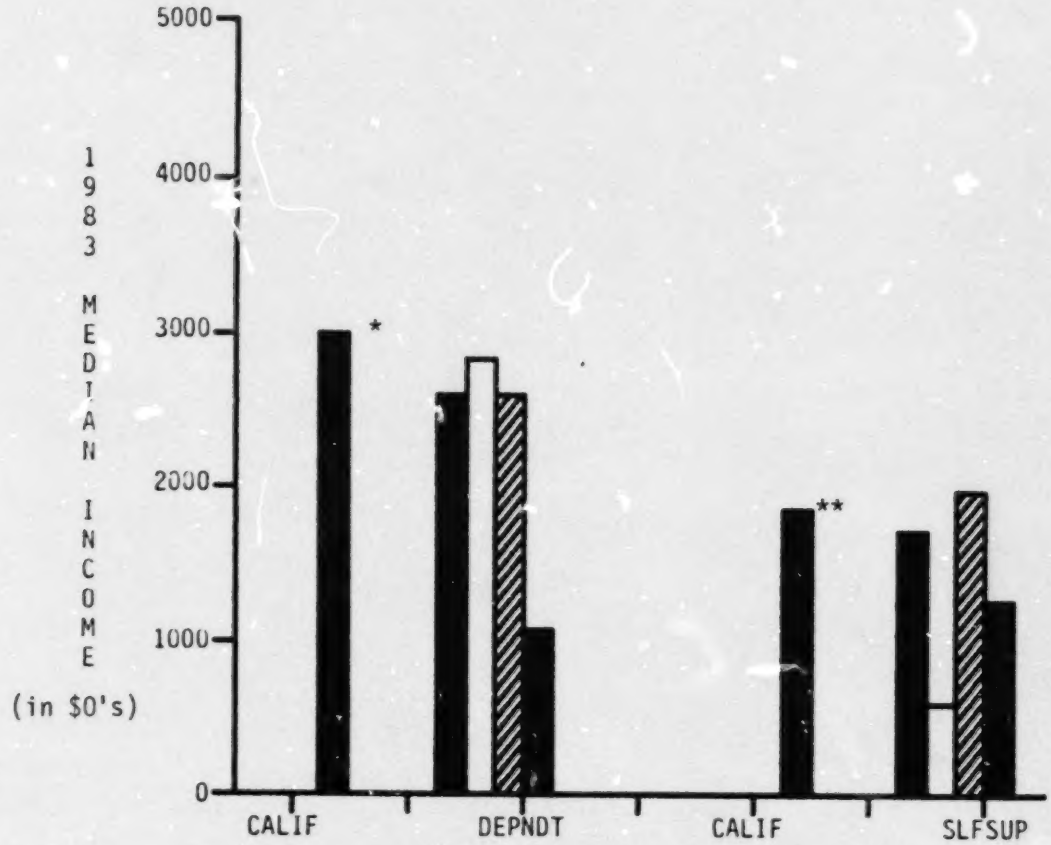
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT
BY UNIT LOAD AND DEPENDENCY STATUS

	DEPENDENT	SELF-SUPPORTING	TOTAL
FULL-TIME	185,855	101,847	287,702
PART-TIME	261,587	531,102	792,689
NONCREDIT	28,150	119,961	148,111
TOTAL	475,582	752,910	1,222,501

NOTE: Derived from results of Field Corporation Survey applied to Fall 1983 enrollment.

CHART 2

INCOME COMPARISON



STUDENT DATA: STATUS AND ACADEMIC LOAD

FULLTIME PARTTIME NONCRDT TOTAL

CALIFORNIA DATA:

* Median family income where householder is between 40 and 54 years old.

** Median family income for all Californians.

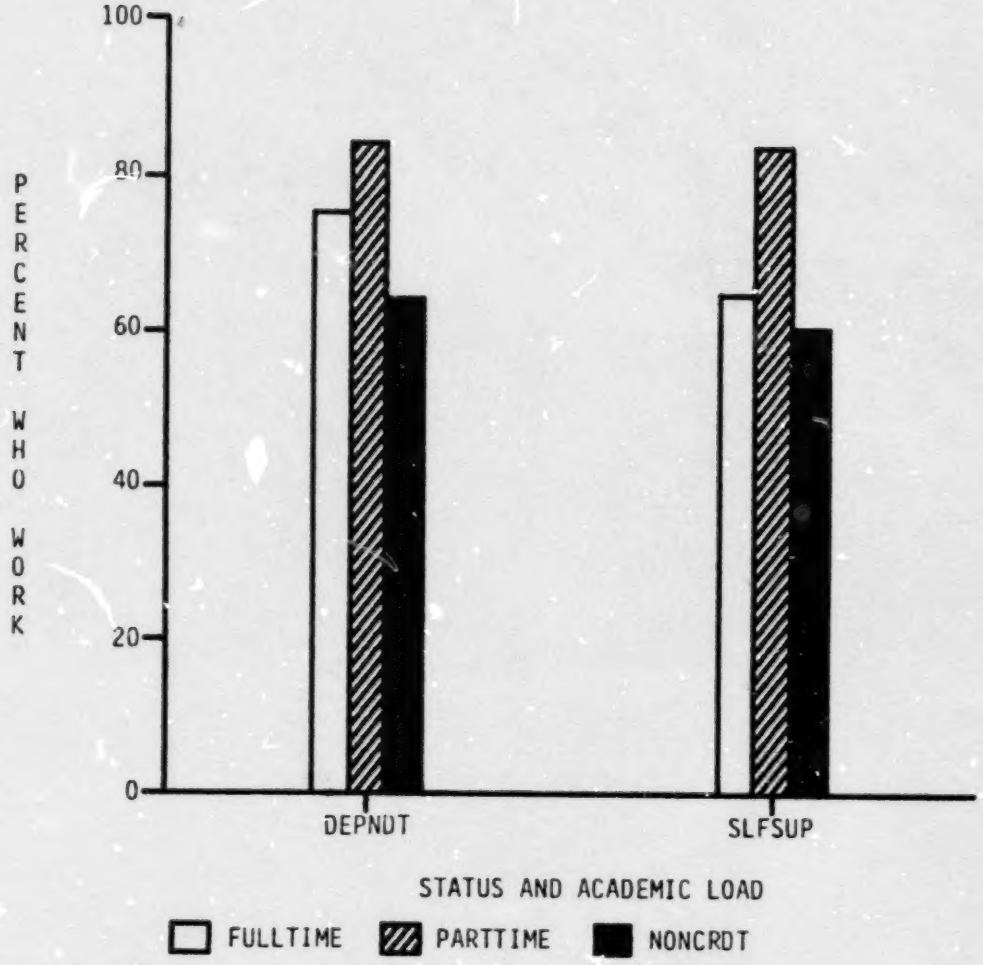
1983 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES
BY UNIT LOAD AND DEPENDENCY STATUS

	DEPENDENT STUDENTS	SELF-SUPPORTING STUDENTS
FULL-TIME	$28,300	$ 6,100
PART-TIME	25,900	19,700
NONCREDIT	10,800	12,600
TOTAL, STUDENTS	$26,000	$17,300
CALIFORNIANS		
ALL	---	$18,564
HOUSEHOLDERS AGED 40-54 YEARS	$29,844	---

SOURCE: Field Research Corporation Survey. California figures estimated from current population survey.

CHART 3

EMPLOYMENT



EMPLOYMENT

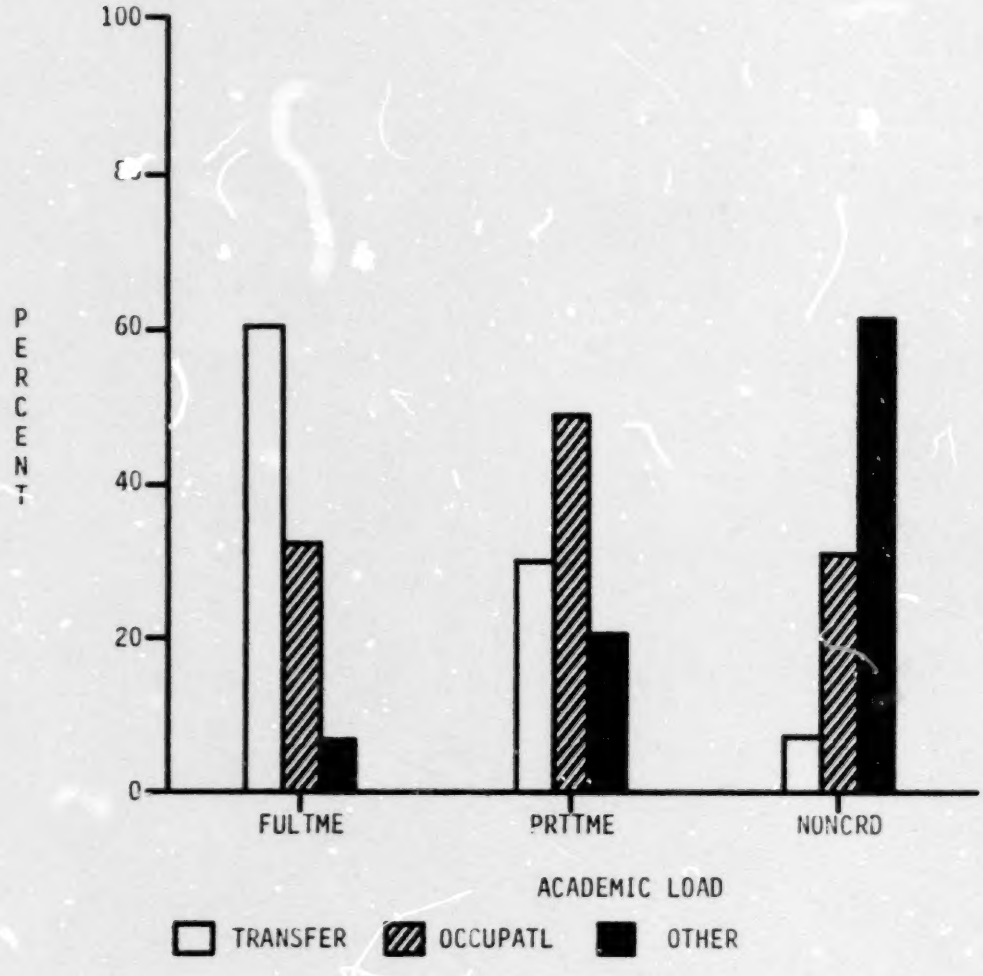
PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO WORK
BY UNIT LOAD AND DEPENDENCY STATUS

	DEPENDENT	SELF-SUPPORTING
FULL-TIME	75.0%	64.6%
PART-TIME	83.9%	83.7%
NONCREDIT	64.0%	60.4%

SOURCE: Field Research Corporation Spring 1984 survey.

CHART 4

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES



EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

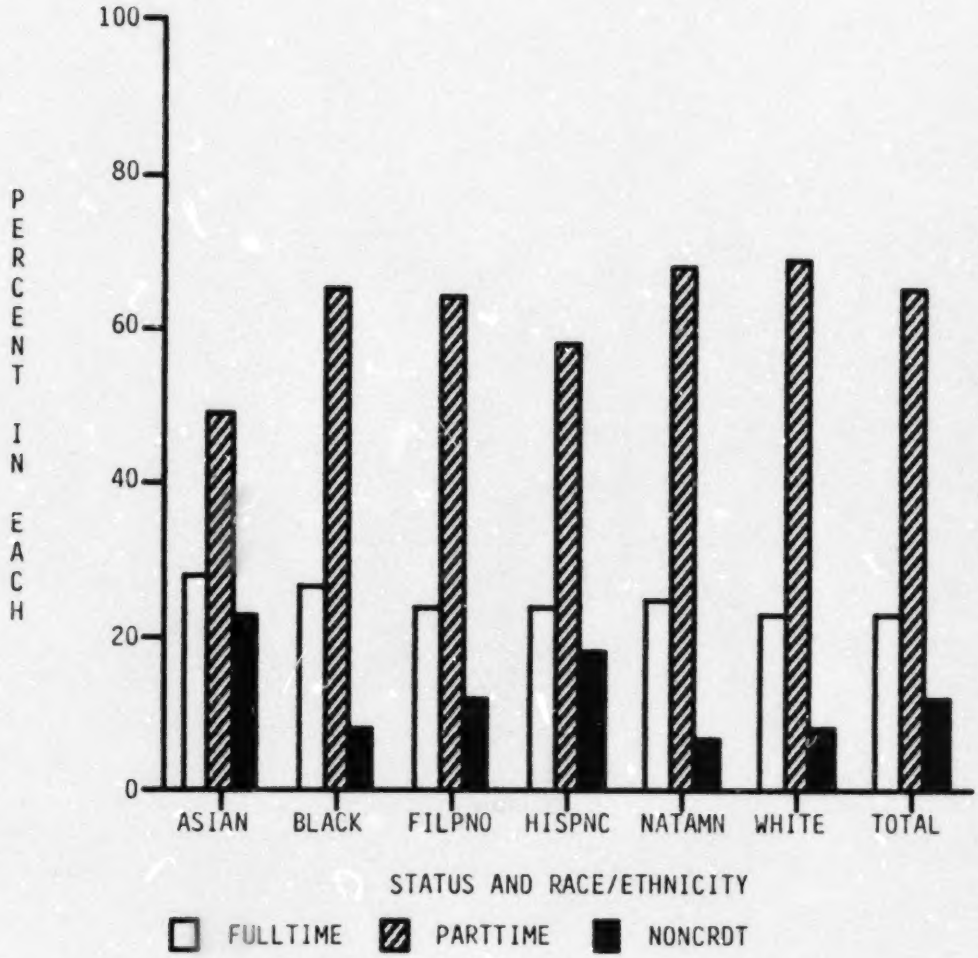
BY UNIT LOAD

	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	NONCREDIT
TRANSFER	60.6%	30.0%	7.5%
OCCUPATIONAL	32.6	49.3	31.0
OTHER	6.8	20.7	61.5

SOURCE: Field Research Corporation Spring 1984 survey.

CHART 5

COURSE LOAD BY RACE/ETHNICITY



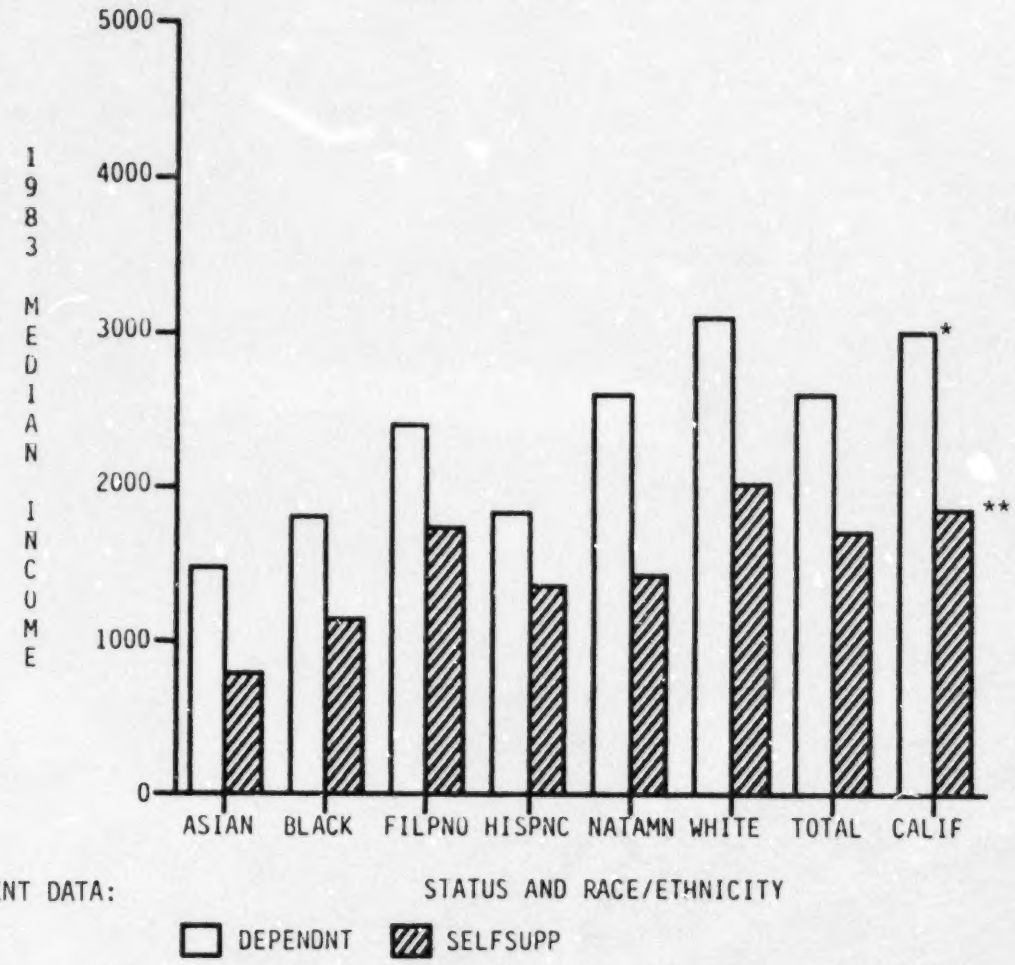
PERCENT OF COURSE LOAD
BY STUDENT RACE

	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	NONCREDIT
ASIAN	28%	49%	23%
BLACK	27	65	8
FILIPINO	24	64	12
HISPANIC	24	68	18
NATIVE AMERICAN	25	68	7
WHITE	23	69	8
TOTAL	23%	65%	12%

SOURCE: Field Research Corporation Spring 1984 survey.

CHART 6

INCOME BY RACE/ETHNICITY



CALIFORNIA DATA:

* Median family income where householder is between ages 40 and 54.

** Median family income for all Californians.

MEDIAN 1983 FAMILY INCOME
BY RACE AND DEPENDENCY STATUS

	DEPENDENT	SELF-SUPPORTING
ASIAN	$14,900	$ 8,000
BLACK	18,100	11,500
FILIPINO	24,000	17,500
HISPANIC	18,300	13,600
NATIVE AMERICAN	26,000	14,200
WHITE	30,900	20,200
TOTAL	$26,000	$17,300
CALIFORNIANS:		
ALL	---	$18,564
AGED 40-54	$29,884	---

SOURCE: Field Research Corporation Spring 1984 survey and current population survey.